

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (currently amended). A vitreoretinal instrument, comprising:

a handle;

a cannula coupled to said handle comprising:

a curved distal portion having a plane of curvature and a side port disposed at an angle of about 90 degrees to said plane of curvature, said side port for disposing in a subretinal space for aspirating subretinal fluid; and

a second port disposed sufficiently away from said side port so that said second port may be used for aspirating a second fluid from said vitreous cavity without removing said first port from said subretinal space;

a first flexible tubing having a distal end fluidly coupled to said side port and a proximal end for fluidly coupling to a vacuum source;

a second flexible tubing having a distal end fluidly coupled to said second port and a proximal end for fluidly coupling to said vacuum source; and

a compression valve disposed on said handle for selectively opening and closing said second flexible tubing, wherein said compression valve comprises a piston which compresses said second tubing against a tubing support member when in a closed position.

2 (canceled).

3 (original). The instrument of claim 1 wherein said side port is recessed from an exterior surface of said curved portion.

4 (original). The instrument of claim 1 wherein said side port comprises a periphery and a raised ridge surrounding at least a portion of said periphery.

5 (original). The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion comprises a closed tip having a smooth, convex surface capable of safely touching the retina.

6 (original). The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion comprises a smooth ventral surface capable of safely touching the retina.

7 (original). The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion comprises a smooth dorsal surface capable of safely touching the retina.

8 (original). The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion is made from a flexible plastic having a smooth surface capable of safely touching the retina.

9 (original). The instrument of claim 1 further comprising an optical fiber disposed in said handle and said curved portion, and wherein said curved portion is capable of transmitting light from said optical fiber to an interior of said eye.

10 (original). The instrument of claim 9 wherein said curved portion is made from a light transmitting plastic.

11 (original). The instrument of claim 9 wherein said curved portion comprises a window made from a light transmitting plastic.

12 (original). The instrument of claim 1 further comprising a second side port, and wherein said side port and said second side port are fluidly coupled.

13 (original). The instrument of claim 1 wherein said curved portion has a radius of curvature substantially equal to a radius of curvature of a human eye.

14 (previously presented). The instrument of claim 1 further comprising a second side port disposed at an angle of about 90 degrees to said plane of curvature and opposite said side port.